

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02
TRSE-00 OES-06 OMB-01 /096 W
-----281301 070988 /44

R 280915Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3089

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, CA

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL -- CANADIAN INTEREST IN PROVIDING AIRCRAFT
FOR BURMA

REF: (A) STATE 15290, (B) RANGOON 0287

1. CANADIAN SECOND SECRETARY JAMES JUNKE, VISITING RANGOON
FROM HIS POST IN BANGKOK, TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD HEARD FROM U.S.
EMBASSY OFFICER IN BANGKOK ABOUT THE BURMA AIR FORCE'S NEED
FOR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND INTEREST IN CANADIAN-PRODUCED
BUFFALOES AND DASH-7'S. HE SAID HIS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE
WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF SELLING THESE
AIRCRAFT, AND HE ASKED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDING
NAMES OF GUB OFFICIALS HE MIGHT CONTACT IN THIS REGARD.

2. EMBOFF BRIEFED JUNKE ON BAF'S TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT PROBLEM
AND CONFIRMED THAT THE BURMESE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
CANADIAN PLANES. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED JUNKE THAT IT IS
UNLIKELY THE BURMESE WOULD BE ABLE TO BUY THESE AIRCRAFT
ON COMMERCIAL TERMS. HE INFORMED JUNKE OF THE U.S.-
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CANADIAN DISCUSSION IN GENEVA (REF A) CONCERNING
POSSIBLE CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA'S ANTI-NARCOTICS
PROGRAM THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.
HE SPECULATED THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS MAY WELL HAVE
HAD FURTHER CONTACTS ON THIS MATTER IN WASHINGTON OR
OTTAWA, AND SUGGESTED THAT JUNKE CHECK WITH OTTAWA
BEFORE APPROACHING THE BURMESE. JUNKE SAID HE WOULD

DO SO ON RETURNING TO BANKOK.

3. JUNKE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD SEE SOME PROBLEMS FROM CIDA'S POINT OF VIEW IN PROVIDING AIRCRAFT FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL (I.E., THEY WOULD BE USED BY THE AIR FORCE AND MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN FIGHTING), THE IDEA SEEMED TO BE WORTH FURTHER EXPLORATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT OTTAWA HAS RECENTLY DECREED THAT CANADIAN AID TO BURMA IS TO BE INCREASED FROM \$25 MILLION TO \$40 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. ONLY ABOUT \$16 MILLION HAS THUS FAR BEEN COMMITTED TO PROJECTS, AND IT IS PROVING DIFFICULT TO FIND GOOD PROJECTS ON WHICH TO SPEND THE REST. A CIDA TEAM IS COMING TO BURMA IN MARCH TO LOOK FOR NEW PROJECTS, JUNKE CONTINUED, AND HE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THEY LOOK INTO THE AIRCRAFT IDEA.

4. EMBOFF ENCOURAGED JUNKE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THIS, NOTING OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY THE GUB HAS UTILIZED OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS AID. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE AIRCRAFT BEING PROVIDED THROUGH UNFDAC, AND IDEA JUNKE SAID HE WOULD PASS ALONG TO OTTAWA. (THE ACTING UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN RANGOON HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO BE PROVIDED TO THE GUB THROUGH UNFDAC.)
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Message Attributes

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